

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Wednesday, April 7, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Also present were Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge and Finance Director Amy Land. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:00.

The First Warden announced the CRMC will be holding a prehearing conference on Champlin's Marina application on April 21, 2010.

Finance Director Amy Land presented the Finance Report for February, 2010.

Tax Income: Motor Vehicle Taxes in Lieu reflect the third quarter payment from the state, the fourth quarter (\$24,500) is still in question.

Licenses, Permits & Fees: Recording Fees, Other Clerk Fees, and Building Permits were more closely budgeted in FY 2010. Income is up from last year, and much close to the new target, but still very considerably below 2008 levels.

State Aid: Airport Aid (\$33,000) is usually received in spring and is not yet here. Library Aid is granted as a portion of Town library funding, contingent on a Town's maintenance of effort. Under state law, the Town's m.o.e. is 80% through June 30, 2010.

Administration: Almost all departments will have a lower expenditure (aggregate \$70,000) for health insurance due to the Town's shift to HRA after the budget was set last year. The Town's claims cost is reflected in the Admin Benefits/Self Insured HRA cost of \$3,165.16. Legal costs were discussed.

Fire, Rescue, EMA: Electricity and Dispatchers wages are down from last year.

Town Roads: More has been spent on Road Materials than last year at this time.

State Roads: Snow removal was higher than in past years, not all bills have been received.

Harbors: Some spring mooring maintenance bills may be outstanding.

Library: The Electricity line was \$27,000 at this time last year, now it is \$15,128 due to the HVAC repairs

Boards and Committees: The 2010 North Light budget contained almost nothing except fuel oil, because the lighthouse was closed for renovation.

Community Support: The Coast Guard Station saw a savings in electricity and fuel.

Report of Town Manager:

- Revaluation notices have been sent. Hearings will be at the end of April. Overall, properties have seen a devaluation of about 20%.
- Bids were received for roadwork on Chapel Street and Old Town Road, which will fall under LEAP funding. The bids must be analyzed before they are awarded.
- The closing for the Merrick property (Plat 6, Lot 147) for \$7,200,000 will be at the end of April.
- Cormorant Cove is closed to shellfishing pending test results, the inner ponds are open.
- Resource Recovery will hold a residential hazardous waste pickup at the Transfer Station on April 24.
- Shawn Monument repaired and reset monuments at a cost of \$8,020. Shawn Monument donated \$300, other donations totaled \$825. Family members who paid for their own stones will be consulted to be sure there is no misunderstanding.
- Dustkill v. crushed asphalt. Road Superintendent Mike Shea recommends surfacing West Beach Road with crushed asphalt. Attorney Packer has approached Gladstone to see whether his clients would agree to extend the deadline to remove road materials from the sandpit so the Town's material may be stored until fall. Town Manager will look into using crushed asphalt at Town Hall.
- Water Company Superintendent Dave Simmons continues to report to the Town Council on the status of Sands Pond and the uptake structure. The Water Company stated at their meeting that the Town owns the Water Company and Sands Pond and problems with the

water level are Town problems. The Town Manager will attend their next meeting and report to the Town Council with a clarification of the Water Commission's position.

- A transformer at the site of the cellar collapse/oil spill was replaced by the environmental cleanup firm on site.
- The amendment to the Old Harbor Dock contract for the anticipated mitigation delay not yet been signed. The amendment revises the payment schedule to allow some materials to be purchased in advance, a departure from the original agreement. Narragansett Dock Works and Bob Fairbanks have been delayed due to flooding at their mainland facility. The DEM has the mitigation plan. The Town will remove material on its property, landowners are responsible for removing remaining equipment on site. The DEM is short staffed and communication can move slowly, but the Town's plan is not especially complex and approval should move quickly. Cleanup will start on October 11. Engineers are estimating not more than two weeks. Construction should continue through April 15. Repairs will be done in the next two weeks to button up project. Asphalt or crushed asphalt bid prices were needed.
- There was a discussion of derelict boats.

At 8:45 First Warden Gaffett moved to enter closed session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) to receive the Town Manager's recommendation regarding the Harbormaster. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste recused himself from the proceedings and left the room. Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge was invited to the closed session meeting. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick attended to take the minutes of the meeting.

The Town Manager described the search and hire process, and recommended that Steven Land be hired as Harbormaster.

At 9:15, Ms. Gaffett adjourned the closed session, the Town Council reentered open session and the audience rejoined the meeting. Mr. Lacoste reentered the room as an audience member, but remained recused from the proceedings.

The Town Manager described the search process: a screening committee (Chris Littlefield, Walter Filkins, Ken Lacoste, Pete Voskamp, Pete Tweedy) devised a list of key job elements and made a list of nine questions each candidate was asked. Nine applications were received, five candidates were interviewed. The search committee members conducted the interviews, the Town Manager attended and had the option of asking additional questions based on management. The Town Manager reviewed the recommendations of the screening Committee. Under the Town Charter, the Town Manager makes a recommendation to the Town Council.

The Town Manager recommended that Steve Land be hire as Harbormaster.

First Warden Gaffett moved to accept recommendation of the Town Manager and authorize her to offer the position to Steve Land and negotiate a salary within budget limitations. The motion was seconded by Second Warden Ray Torrey.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Martin) Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Lacoste)

At 9:30, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved April 21, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk